

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for digitally recording a broadcast television program in an audio/video entertainment system comprising the steps of:

receiving enhanced content including preview information concerning at least one broadcast television program and an event identifier associating the enhanced content with the at least one broadcast television program;

presenting the preview information and a selector button on a video display;

in response to viewer selection of the selector button, causing the entertainment system to automatically tune to the broadcast television program associated with the event identifier when the program is actually broadcast; and

digitally recording the broadcast television program on a storage medium.

2. The invention as in claim 1 further comprising the step of tuning to a second broadcast television program while the digitally recording step is being performed.

3. The invention as in claim 1 wherein the video display is a television receiver.

4. The invention as in claim 1 wherein the preview information corresponds to future sports television programming.

5. A computer program product for use in a network environment having at least one client system and one broadcast server coupled to said network

environment, wherein said network environment is a distributed environment capable of delivering broadcast television programming, the computer program product comprising:

    a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for causing the client system to receive the television programming and to receive dynamic content including plurality of program indices corresponding to predetermined time logs for at least one of the programs in the television programming;

    computer readable code for causing the client system to store at least a portion of the television programming as at least one program segment on a storage medium;

    computer readable program code for associating one of the program indices with the at least one program segment;

    computer readable program code for performing a search for the at least one program segment based on the associated program index; and

    computer readable program code for causing said client system to display, the at least one television program segment.

6. The invention as in claim 5 wherein the dynamic content includes control data associating the dynamic content with at least one user interface.

7. The invention as in claim 6 further including computer readable program code for creating a plurality of program segments based on the program indices.

8. The invention as in claim 7 further including computer readable program code for automatically skipping forward from the end of a first program segment to the beginning of a second program segment in a skip-forward mode of operation.

9. The invention as in claim 8 further including computer readable program code for automatically skipping backward from the end of a second program segment to the beginning of a first program segment in a skip-backward mode of operation.

10. The invention as in claim 5 wherein the dynamic content received by the client system further includes an event-based indicator, and wherein the computer program product further comprises computer readable program code for adjusting the record time of a television program based upon the event-based indicator.

11. The invention as in claim 10 wherein the computer program product comprises computer readable program code for extending the record time based on the event-based indicator.

12. The invention as in claim 10 wherein the computer program product further comprises computer readable program code for reducing the record time of a television program based upon the event-based indicator.

13. The invention as in claim 5 wherein the dynamic content received by the client system includes an event-based indicator, and wherein the computer program product further comprises computer readable program code for causing the client system to automatically record a television program based upon the receipt of the event-based indicator.

14. A method for creating digital video recording enhancements for a television program comprising the steps of:

- creating program event log indices marking events in the program meeting program-specific rules;
- creating one or more control files associated with the program event log indices to facilitate receipt of user input at a client system; and
- transmitting the program event log indices and the one or more control files to the client system to enable the client system to perform an intelligent filter based on processing of the program event log indices in response to user input.

15. The invention of claim 14 wherein the program event log indices are created as the program is broadcast.

16. The invention of claim 15 wherein the program event log indices are transmitted to the client system in real-time.

17. The invention of claim 15 wherein the program log indices are transmitted to the client system after the recording of a show.

18. The invention of claim 14 wherein the program-specific rules relate to sporting events.

19. The invention of claim 18 wherein the program-specific rules relate to football.

20. The invention of claim 14 wherein the program-specific rules relate to news events.

21. The invention of claim 14 wherein the program-specific rules relate to televised music programs.

22. The invention of claim 14 wherein the program-specific rules relate to televised movies.

23. The invention of claim 14 wherein the program-specific rules relate to preview programs.

24. The invention of claim 14 wherein the program specific rules relate to infomercials.

25. The invention of claim 16 wherein the event log indices are transmitted in a format that enables the client system to define multiple playback modes of operation.

26. The invention of claim 14 wherein the program event log indices are formatted in the Extensible Markup Language.

27. The invention of claim 14 wherein the program event log indices are transmitted to the client system in a batch mode.

28. The invention as in claim 16 wherein additional versions of the program log indices are transmitted to the client system in a batch mode.

29. The invention as in claim 16 wherein the event log indices are transmitted in a peer-to-peer networking environment.

30. The invention as in claim 16 wherein the one or more control files are used to create a playback application by the client system.

31. A method for processing video recording enhancements in a client system adapted to receive television programming comprising the steps of:

receiving the television programming;

storing the television programming as a recorded program;

receiving program event indices developed according to one or more defined rules applied to the television programming; and

associating the program event indices with corresponding segments in the recorded program.

32. The invention of claim 31, wherein at least one of the plurality of defined rules requires an event log to be captured upon the occurrence of a certain action in the television programming.

33. A method for enabling an intelligent skip feature in digital video recording apparatus that is capable of storing one more recorded programs comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of program event log indices developed in accordance with program-specific rules;

associating at least certain ones of the event log indices with corresponding intervals in a recorded program; and

locating the corresponding interval in the recorded program.

34. The method as in claim 33 wherein the receiving step includes receiving an index file including the plurality of program event indices.

35. The method as in claim 34 wherein the index file further includes control data.

36. A digital recording device operable to perform an intelligent skip comprising:

a storage medium containing a recording; and

a Digital Video Recording engine executing on a data processing device adapted to receive a plurality of context sensitive program indices, to associate at least certain ones of the program indices with corresponding segments of the recording, and to locate the corresponding segment in the recording.

37. A method for playing back digitally recorded programming in an audio/video entertainment system comprising the steps of:

- receiving enhanced content concerning the recorded programming;
- receiving index information concerning the digitally recorded program;
- associating the enhanced content with the index information;
- creating a playback application from the enhanced content including functionality for creating an interactive user interface on a video display;
- presenting the interactive user interface including at least one selector button on the video display;
- in response to viewer selection of the selector button, causing the entertainment system to automatically locate at least one of the plurality of indices;
- and
- presenting digitally recorded programming corresponding to the at least one located index.

38. The invention as in claim 37 further comprising the step of recording broadcast television programming while the interactive user interface is being presented.

39. The invention as in claim 37 wherein the playback application includes Markup language files, graphics files, picture files, scripting files, index files and other data.

40. The invention as in claim 37 wherein the steps of receiving enhanced content and the step of receiving index information occur after the programming has been broadcast.

41. The invention as in claim 37 wherein the steps of receiving enhanced content and the step of receiving index information occur during a broadcast of programming.

42. A computer program product for use in a network environment having at least one client system and one broadcast server coupled to said network environment, wherein said network environment is a distributed environment capable of delivering broadcast television programming, the computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for causing the client system to store recorded television programming, to store dynamic content including plurality of program indices corresponding to

predetermined time logs for at least one of the programs in the television programming, and to store one or more control and data files;

computer readable code for causing the client system to create a playback application program based on the received one or more control and data files;

computer readable program code for causing the application program to associate one of the program indices with a location in recorded television programming; and

computer readable program code for performing a search for at least one program location based on the associated program index.

43. The invention as in claim 42 wherein the application program includes Markup language files, scripting files and index files.

44. The invention as in claim 43 wherein the application program further includes graphics files, picture files, and other data.

45. The invention as in claim 42 wherein the application program includes computer readable program code for searching a plurality of recorded programs in accordance with a user preference.

46. A method for extending the record time of a broadcast program being recorded by Digital Video Recording apparatus comprising the steps of:

receiving an enhanced user alert during the broadcast program and at least one unique event identifier associating the user alert with the broadcast program;

processing the user alert to determine an extended record time for the broadcast program; and

automatically changing the record time of the broadcast program to the extended record time.

47. A method for altering a determined record time of a televised sporting event in a Digital Video Recording system comprising the steps of:

receiving a user alert containing metadata concerning the duration for the sporting event and a unique event identifier associating the user alert with the televised sporting event;

processing the user alert to determine an altered record time for the televised sporting event; and

automatically recording the televised sporting event for the altered record time.

48. A method for automatically recording a televised event in a Digital Video Recording system comprising the steps of:

receiving a speculative user alert concerning a televised event and at least one event identifier associating the speculative user alert with the televised event;

processing the speculative user alert by the Digital Video Recording system;

determining by the Digital Video Recording system that the event is to be recorded based on information contained in the speculative user alert; and automatically recording the televised event.